

Message Text

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P 152145Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL TOURISM
WORKING GROUP MEETING

REF: MOSCOW 3893

1. AMEXCO REPS, USTS OFFICIALS, AND DEPTOFFS HAVE
DISCUSSED UPCOMING VISIT AT SOME LENGTH. WE ALL ARE AT
A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY THE SOVIETS HAVE PRESSED THE MATTER
AT THIS TIME, BUT ARE INTRIGUED THAT THEY HAVE HINTED
AT POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN GROMYKO AND COMMERCE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FABIAN CHAVEZ. AS A RESULT, BASIC US POSTURE
WILL BE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT SOVIETS WISH TO DISCUSS.
WHILE WE SHARE EMBASSY'S SKEPTICISM ABOUT WILLINGNESS OF
SOVIETS TO LIBERALIZE TRAVEL OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS, TRIP
WILL AT LEAST PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHAVEZ TO PUSH FOR
INCREASED "VISIBILITY" OF US TOURIST AND TRAVEL INDUSTRY
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ORGANIZATIONS (E.G., MORE ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES FOR
PAN AM AND AMEXCO, OPPORTUNITIES TO ADVERTISE, ETC.), AND
TO ENCOURAGE SOVIET COOPERATION WITH THE VISIT USA
COMMITTEE.

2. US SIDE OF TOURISM WORKING GROUP HAS INSISTED ON
PARTICIPATION OF VISIT USA COMMITTEE IN WORKING GROUP

MEETING AND WILL CALL ON INTERESTED EMBASSY OFFICERS FOR THEIR COMMENTS ON ABOVE AND OTHER RELATED POINTS.

3. IF SUBJECT OF US PROPOSAL FOR TOURISM AGREEMENT IS RAISED, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE TO SAY, ALTHOUGH WE DOUBT THAT SOVIETS WILL HAVE CHANGED THEIR NEGATIVE POSITION. IN CASE THEY DO, CHAVEZ WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE NO RPT NO AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

4. HANSEN-STURM EXPECTS THAT FINAL DECISION WILL BE REACHED, WHILE SENIOR AMEXCO REPS ARE IN MOSCOW, ON ACCEPTABILITY OF NEW PREMISES THAT HAVE BEEN OFFERED BY SOVIETS. VANCE

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